CLAIMS:

1. A method of operating a mobile telecommunications network, the network having a multiplicity of contiguous telecommunications cells, comprising the steps of:

providing directional beams for a plurality of mobile users in the same telecommunications cell or cell sector and on the same telecommunications channel;

monitoring the Carrier-to-Interference Ratio for each user;

comparing the monitored values with a threshold value; and when the threshold value is reached by any mobile user in the network, allocating a different channel to that mobile user.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the method is applied in the downlink.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the number of co-channel users within a cell sector is kept constant and the Carrier-to-Interference Ratio of each user is improved.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the Carrier-to-Interference Ratio of each mobile user is maintained at an acceptable level and the number of co-channel users per cell or per cell sector is increased.

5. A base station for a mobile telecommunications network, comprising:

a plurality of beamforming antennae;

a beamforming that provides a plurality of directional beam patterns on the same radio channel; and

a receiver arranged to receive spatial information from mobile users served by the base station, wherein a spatial allocator stores a threshold value of Carrier-to-Interference Ratio, compares the Carrier-to-Interference Ratio information for the mobile users served by the base station to the threshold value and, when the threshold value is reached for at least one user instructs the base station to allocate a different radio channel to that mobile user, and informs the beamformer of the different set of mobile users sharing the same channel, so that the appropriate beam patterns are generated.